

724 Broadway Ave
St Paul Park, MN 55071

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February 3, 2001

FDA Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Rm. 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

Re: FDA proposed rules on genetically engineered foods

Dear FDA Commissioner,

While I am pleased to see some improvement in the newly proposed FDA regulations, I am shocked to see that they fail to require labeling or safety testing of genetically engineered (GE) foods. The new rules continue to deny Americans the right to know what is in our food, while protecting the economic interests of biotech corporations.

By refusing to require both labeling and mandatory pre-market safety testing of foods, the FDA puts consumers' health at risk, ignores possible environmental hazards, and fails to satisfy the **overwhelming desire** of American consumers to exercise freedom of choice in the marketplace. It is not enough to require that firms simply notify you of their intent to market a food produced with genetic engineering; this is no substitute for thorough pre-market safety testing. The proposed "voluntary labeling" guidelines will do nothing to inform consumers of the presence of genetically engineered ingredients in their food, because biotech companies and food manufacturers have vehemently opposed labeling in the past and will not voluntarily label their foods in the future.

I urge you to keep all GE ingredients and crops off the market unless or until:

- 1) Independent safety testing demonstrates they have no harmful effects on human health or the environment;
- 2) They are labeled to ensure consumers' right-to-know; and
- 3) The biotechnology corporations that produce them are held responsible for any harm they may cause.

At the very least, I demand that the new guidelines require labeling of GE foods - as a consumer, I have the right to know what I am purchasing. I appreciate this opportunity to share my concerns and trust that they will be appropriately considered.

Sincerely,

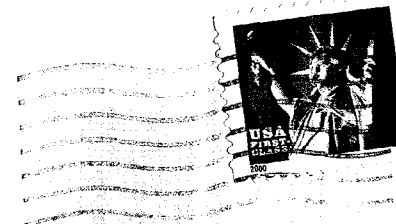
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